

CLAIMS:

1. A steering apparatus for a vehicle comprising:

5 a body-side bracket attached to the vehicle body;

a column assembly supported by said body-side bracket and consisting of an inner column for supporting a steering shaft to be rotatable and an outer jacket for supporting said inner column to be  
10 movable in the axial direction; and

telescopic clamping means for fixing the steering shaft at an adjustment position by clamping said inner column through said outer jacket,

15 wherein said outer jacket is provided with a slit entirely along the axial direction.

2. A steering apparatus for a vehicle according to Claim 1, wherein the steering shaft is supported to be rotatable at least at two points in said inner  
20 column, and said steering shaft is extendable and contractible outside said inner column in the axial direction and on a lower side thereof.

3. A steering apparatus for a vehicle according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said inner column is  
25 expanded into a deformed non-circular form and the inner diameter of said outer jacket is also shaped

into a deformed portion non-circular form  
correspondingly thereto.

4. A steering apparatus for a vehicle according  
5 to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said inner column is  
provided with an axial stopper member for preventing  
rotation which is extended from said inner column to  
pass through said slit.

10 5. A steering column apparatus for a vehicle  
comprising:

an inner column for supporting a steering shaft  
to be rotatable;

an outer jacket for supporting said inner column  
15 from the outer peripheral side thereof; and

a bracket for supporting said outer jacket so as  
to adjust the position thereof on a body-side  
strength member; and

a clamping mechanism for releasing a clamped  
20 state in which the position of said outer jacket is  
fixed to said bracket and the position of said outer  
jacket fixed to said bracket so as to allow position  
adjustment,

wherein said outer jacket has a portion for  
25 pressing and supporting said steering column from the  
outer diameter side of said steering column, and

said portion for pressing and supporting is

formed with a slit entirely along the axial direction of the steering.

5           6. A steering apparatus for a vehicle according to Claim 5, wherein:

          the outer jacket has a retaining portion with the minimum inner diameter portion for pressing and retaining the inner column from the outer peripheral side thereof and a cylindrical inner diameter portion 10 which is connected to said retaining portion through an inclined step portion and which is extended in the axial direction with the inner diameter portion larger than said retaining portion;

          said inner column comprises a cylindrical outer 15 diameter portion with a predetermined length which is partially pressed and supported by said retaining portion with the minimum inner diameter from the outer diameter side thereof and which is extended in the axial direction to face said cylindrical inner 20 diameter portion and a large outer diameter portion which is connected to said cylindrical outer diameter portion through the inclined step portion, is pressed and supported by said cylindrical inner diameter portion, and has a diameter larger than that of said 25 cylindrical outer diameter portion.

7. A steering apparatus for a vehicle according

to Claim 6, wherein:

said inner column supports the steering shaft at two points in the axial direction through bearings; and

5 a bearing on a lower side, out of said bearings, is provided at a lower end of said cylindrical outer diameter portion.